



5
MAY

BRITAIN'S
GREATEST HERO!

JACK STAFF

★ FEATURING ★

TOM TOM
TOM TOM
THE ROBOT MAN

IN A DARK
& STORMY
NIGHT!

£1.80
\$2.95 US

**WINNER/LOSER*
HARVEY AWARD
FOR BEST NEW
COMIC IN 2000!**

*delete where applicable



FLAG WAVING

Sorry I'm running a little off schedule at the moment. The main delay was caused by my spraining my ankle quite badly at the end of January, which meant I couldn't get much work done for a couple of weeks. Alright - who said 'Told you it looks like he inks with his feet?' I heard you...

Apologies to the organisers of the Fantastic Fun Day, a mini comic convention held in London on May 20th (special guest Steve Englehart). I had intended to run an ad for the event, but by the time this issue is in the shops it'll all be over. Sorry about that, but hope you all had a good time!

This issue should be out just in time for the Comics 2001 festival in Bristol. I was there, hope you were too!

A few American readers have been wondering about ordering comics so it's probably worth pointing out that you can pay by ordinary \$ cheque (or check if you prefer). Just make them payable to Paul Grist and we'll get along fine!

Also, please remember Kane book 2, Rabbit Hunt, is currently out of print - a second printing should be out pretty soon, but I'm still not taking orders (unless you want to pre-order and send me \$14.00 US or £6.95, and I'll send out a copy of the book as soon as it's back from the printers).

I'm having a little local difficulty with AOL at the moment (can't sign on or find filed messages) - hopefully this will be all sorted out by the time you read this, but if you have sent me something recently and I haven't replied, it might be worth sending me the message again in case it has just been scattered across the wasteland that is cyberspace!

*actually, I lost - never mind, there's always the Eisners...

★ DANCING ELEPHANT PRESS PROUDLY PRESENTS ★

MY NAME IS
HARRY CRANE.

I **USED** TO BE
A POLICEMAN.

I **USED** TO BE
A HUSBAND.

I **USED** TO BE
A FATHER.

I **USED** TO BE
A LOT OF THINGS.

I HAVE THIS
PROBLEM
WITH MY EYES.

SOMETIMES
I **SEE** THINGS.

★ ANOTHER PEERLESS **PAUL GRIST** PRODUCTION ★



OKAY,
SO WE'VE
GOT A GUY
HANGING
IN A LOCKED
BASEMENT
AND A
SUICIDE
NOTE.

I DON'T
THINK WE'RE
GETTING ANY
OVERTIME
OUT OF THIS
ONE.

POLICE INVESTIGATION

featuring DETECTIVES CRANE & MAVERYK

SOMETIMES I
SEE **ECHOES**.
SHADOWS
OF REALITY.

I WATCH AS A
DEAD MAN IS
THROWN TO THE
GROUND.

I HEAR HIM
CHOK AND
GASP FOR
BREATH.

I SEE THE
FACE OF HIS
KILLER.

LAUGHING.







LISTEN.

I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME.

I NEED YOUR HELP.

THE

DRUID

THE FIRST BOOK OF
JACK STAY
PART 1: THE FIRST BOOK OF JACK STAY

I KNOW
YOU'RE
OUT THERE,
READING
THIS.

THAT'S
WHY I'M
HERE.
AT THIS
PLACE.
AT THIS
TIME.

TO SPEAK
DIRECTLY
TO
YOU!

MY GIVEN
NAME IS
UNIMPORTANT.
I **AM THE**
DRUID!

I SEE THE
MULTITUDES
OF **REALITIES**
UNFOLD!

I SEE THE
LAYERS OF
POSSIBILITY
SURROUND.

I AM AWARE!

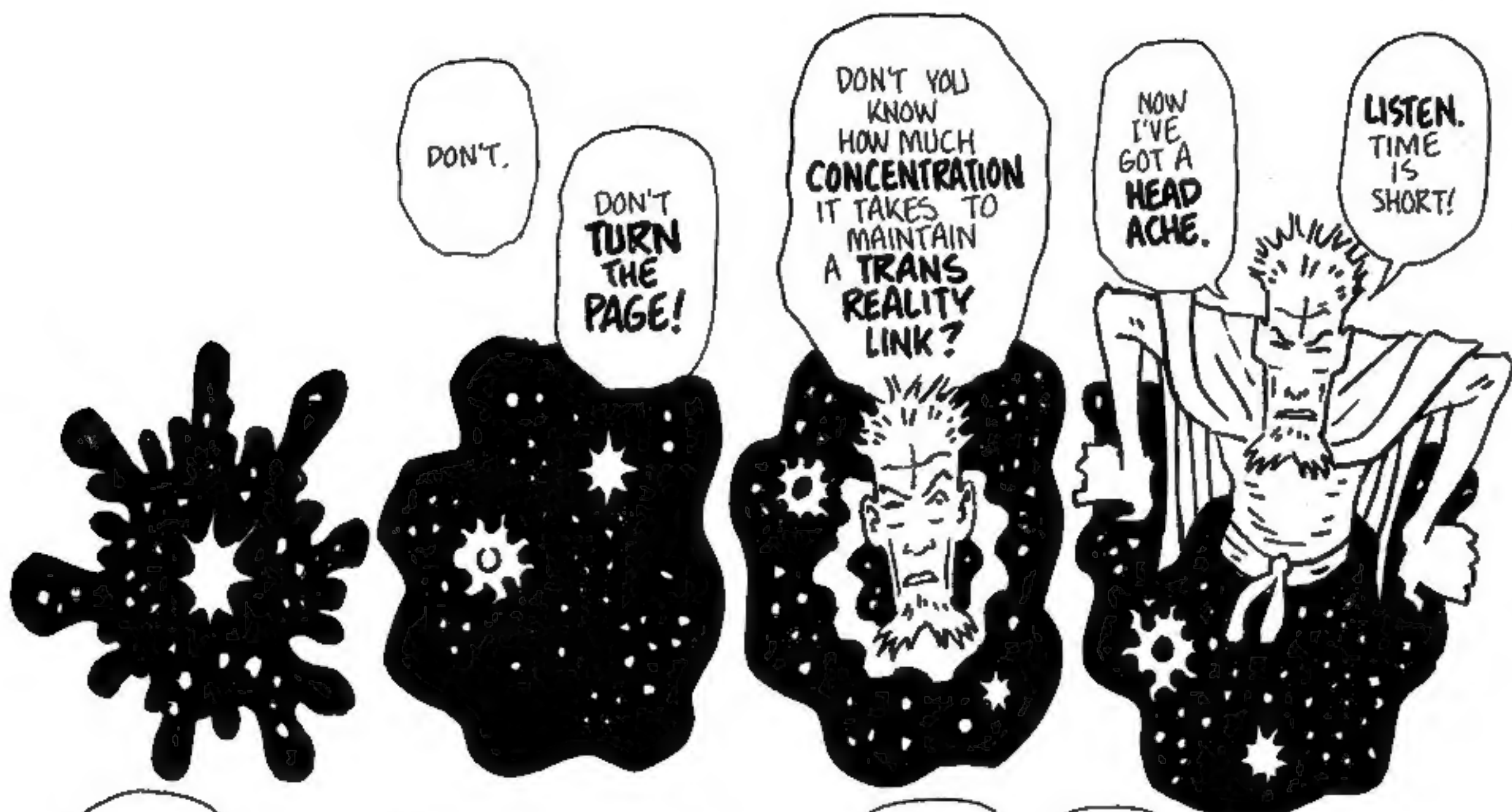
WHEN YOU
OPENED THIS
COMIC YOU
OPENED A BRIDGE
BETWEEN OUR
REALITIES.
A BRIDGE
ONLY **I** HAVE
LEARN'T TO
CROSS!



COME
ON!

YOU
READ
COMICS
DON'T
YOU?

I
THOUGHT
YOU'D BE
MORE **OPEN**
TO CONCEPTS
LIKE
THIS!



--- YOU SHOULD NOW HAVE A NUMBER BETWEEN ONE AND TWENTY SIX ---

--COUNT THAT **NUMBER** BACKWARDS FROM THE END OF THE ALPHABET-- THE LETTER YOU'VE REACHED IS THE LETTER OF COSMIC HARMONY--

ZYXWVUTSRQPON
MLKJIGFEDCBA

1 --THINK OF A COLOUR WHICH BEGINS WITH YOUR CHOSEN LETTER--

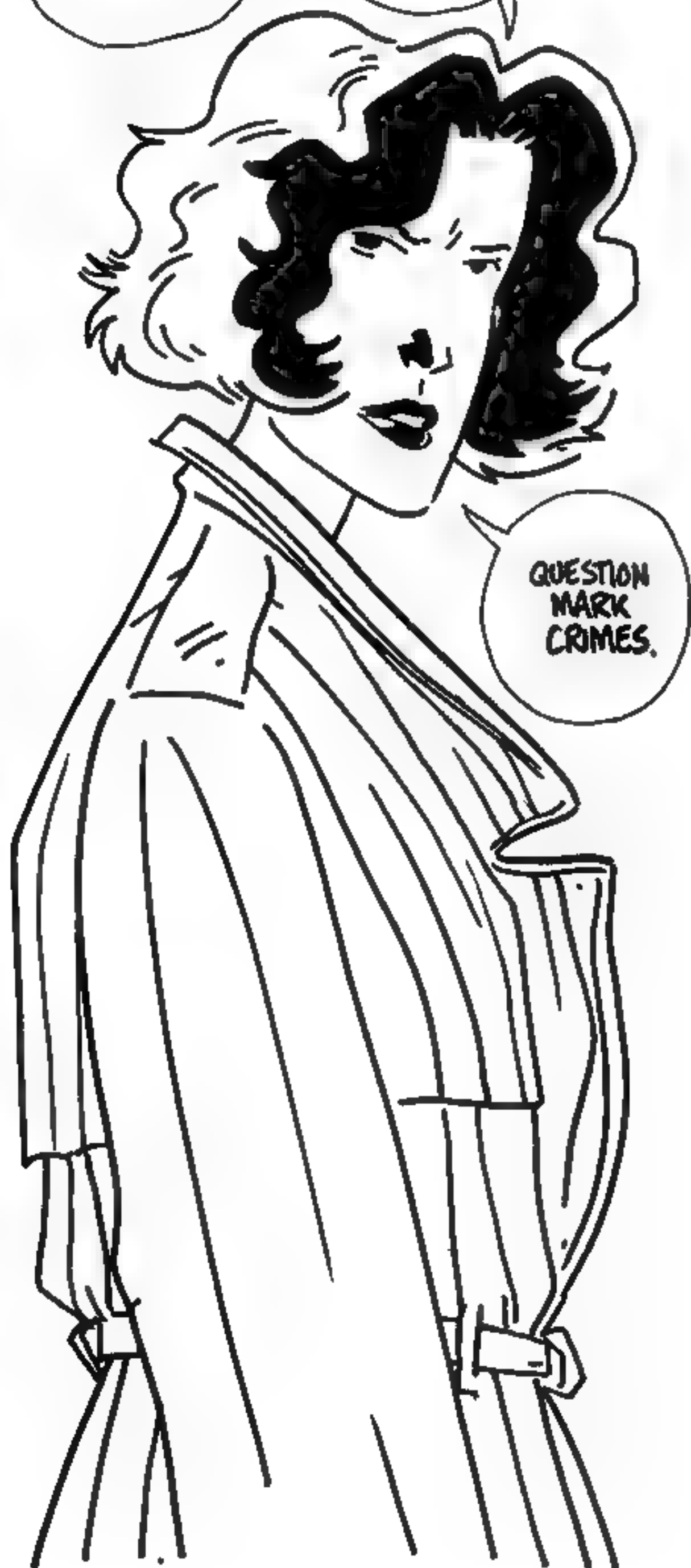
2 --THINK OF AN ANIMAL WHICH BEGINS WITH THE MIDDLE LETTER OF YOUR CHOSEN COLOUR--

3 --THINK OF A COUNTRY WHICH BEGINS WITH THE FINAL LETTER IN YOUR COLOUR--

NO!







THEY CALL ME
DETECTIVE SERGEANT
MAVERYK.

I'M WHAT THEY
CALL AN **OLD
FASHIONED COPPER.**

I DON'T TAKE NO
NONSENSE
FROM ANYONE.

ESPECIALLY NOT
SOME BIRD IN A
GREEN COAT
TRYING TO TAKE
OVER **MY**
INVESTIGATION

PUZZLING?

YOU
THINK
WE'RE
STUPID
OR SOME
THING?

MARTIN
DAWES IS,
OR RATHER
WAS A
COLLECTOR
OF **OCCULT**
ARTIFACTS.

I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO
TRACK DOWN
ONE HE
RECENTLY
AQUIRED.

ALLOF
THE PREVIOUS
OWNERS
OF THIS
PARTICULAR
MAGICAL OBJECT
DIED UNDER
UNUSUAL
CIRCUM-
STANCES.

AND IT
SEEMS AS
IF MISTER
DAWES
WAS THE
LATEST
VICTIM.

I KNOW
A SUICIDE
WHEN I
SEE
ONE.

Y4902
DAH TI
END

WAS
THE NOTE
WRITTEN
BACK
TO
FRONT?

THAT'S
A LITTLE
ODD
ISNT IT?

THE
TWISTED
MIRROR.

I DON'T KNOW WHICH I
FIND **MOST** BIZARRE--

THE LEGEND
IS IT'S A DOOR
WAY TO ANOTHER
DIMENSION--
OR RATHER IT
ALLOWS ANOTHER
DIMENSION
A DOORWAY
INTO **OURS!**

THIS **CRAZY WOMANS** STORY--

THE
REFLECTION
COMES TO
LIFE...

THAT
MAKES
SENSE
...

OR THE FACT THAT MY COLLEGE,
DETECTIVE CRANE SEEMS TO KNOW
WHAT SHE'S **TALKING** ABOUT.



THERE'S A FIGURE
APPROACHING IN
THE DISTANCE.



OH
WHE
T
H
E
T
H
E
R
E
A
S
U
D
Y

SCARY
LOOKING
BASTARD
STARTS
GRUNTING
AT ME.



DON'T UNDERSTAND
A WORD HE SAYS

THEN, WITHOUT
ANY WARNING
THE GUY PULLS
A GUN ON ME.



I UNDERSTAND
THAT

I THINK HE'S A
FRACTION SLOWER
THAN I AM.



THAT'S ALL THE
EDGE I NEED.





CASTLETOWN ROYAL INFIRMARY.

A DARK & STORMY NIGHT



PATRICIA CARTHY CAN'T SLEEP.

SHE **HATES** HOSPITALS.

SHE'S SPENT **TOO MUCH** TIME
IN THEM SINCE THE ACCIDENT.



IT WAS ONE
OF THOSE STORMS
WHICH JUST
CREEPS UP,
WITHOUT
WARNING.

IT STARTED
WITH A **LIGHT**
DRIZZLE.

THERE'S A SUDDEN
FLASH OF LIGHT.

SHOULD
YOU BE
OUT OF
YOUR BED
MISS
CARTHY?

A LOW **RUMBLE**
OF **THUNDER**

OR WOULD YOU
RATHER I CALL YOU

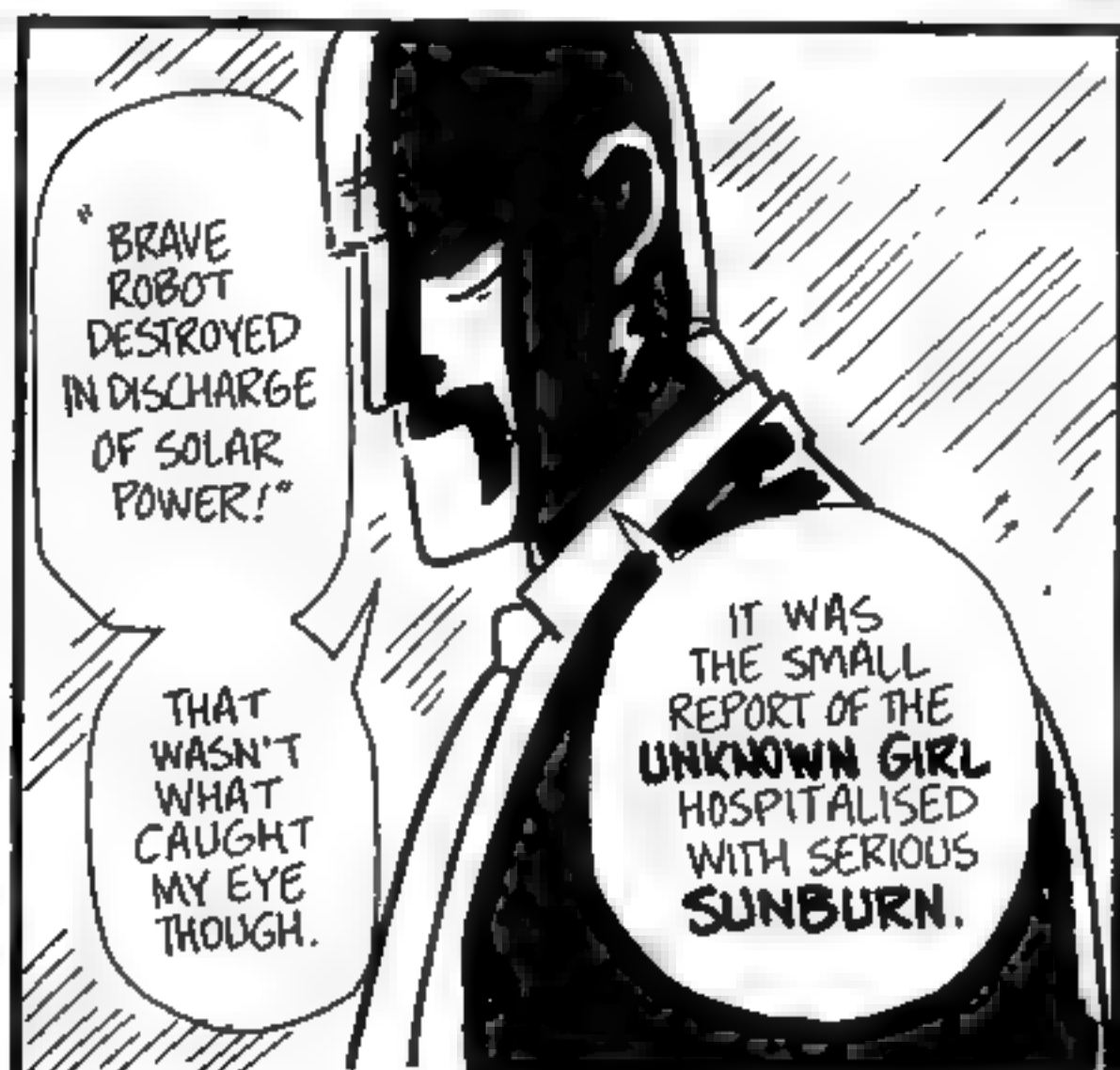
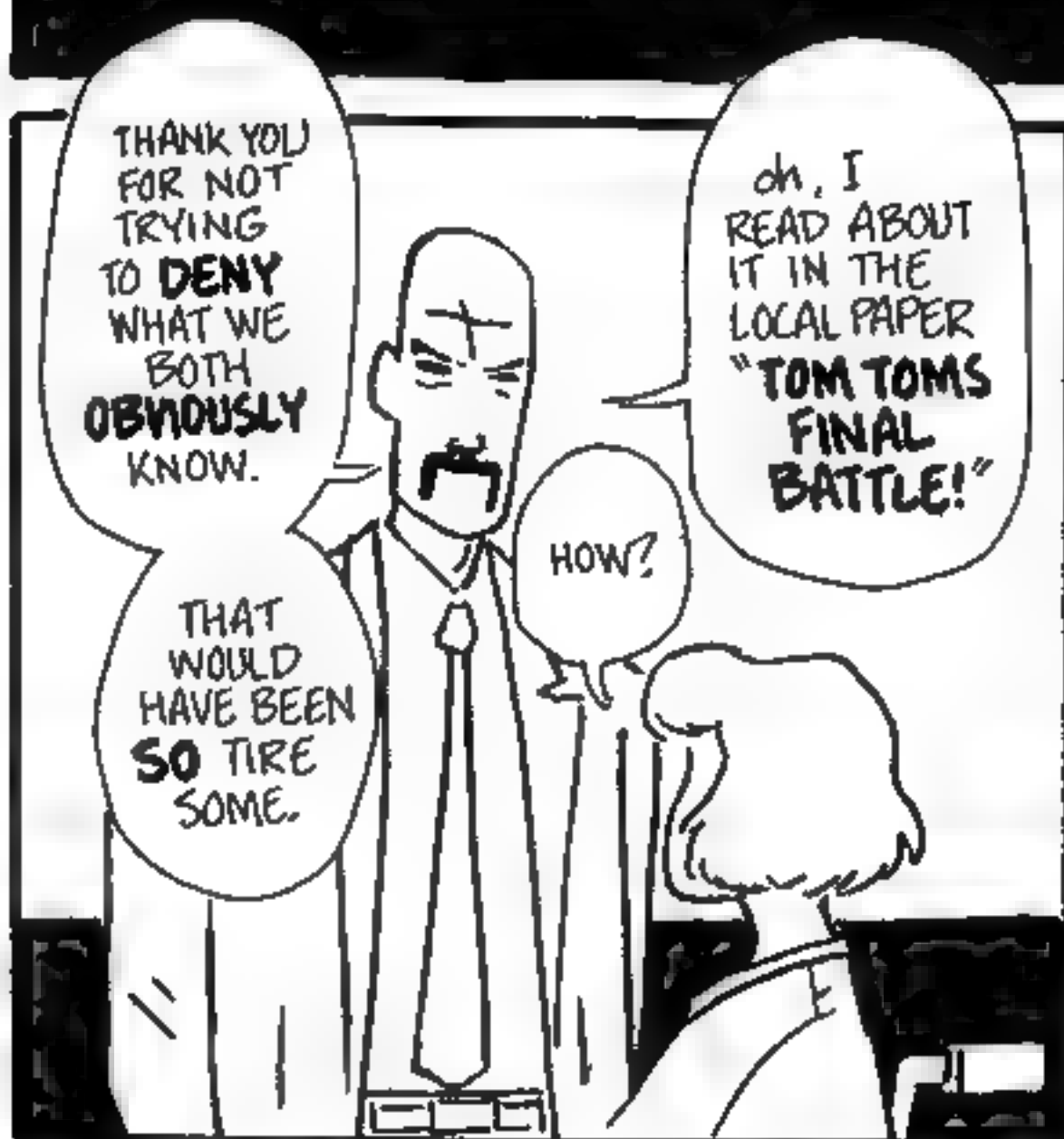
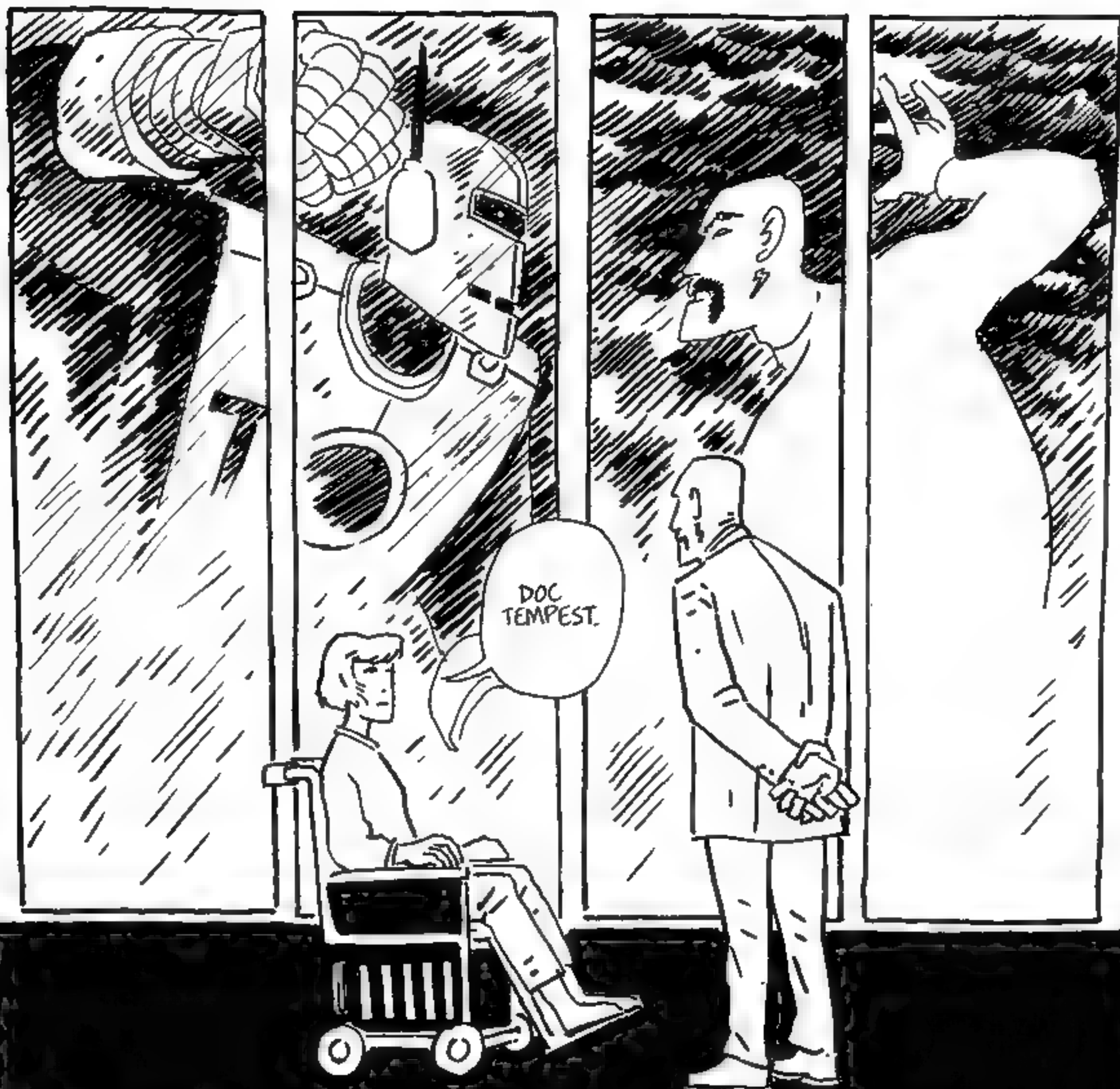
TOM
TOM
THE ROBOT MAN

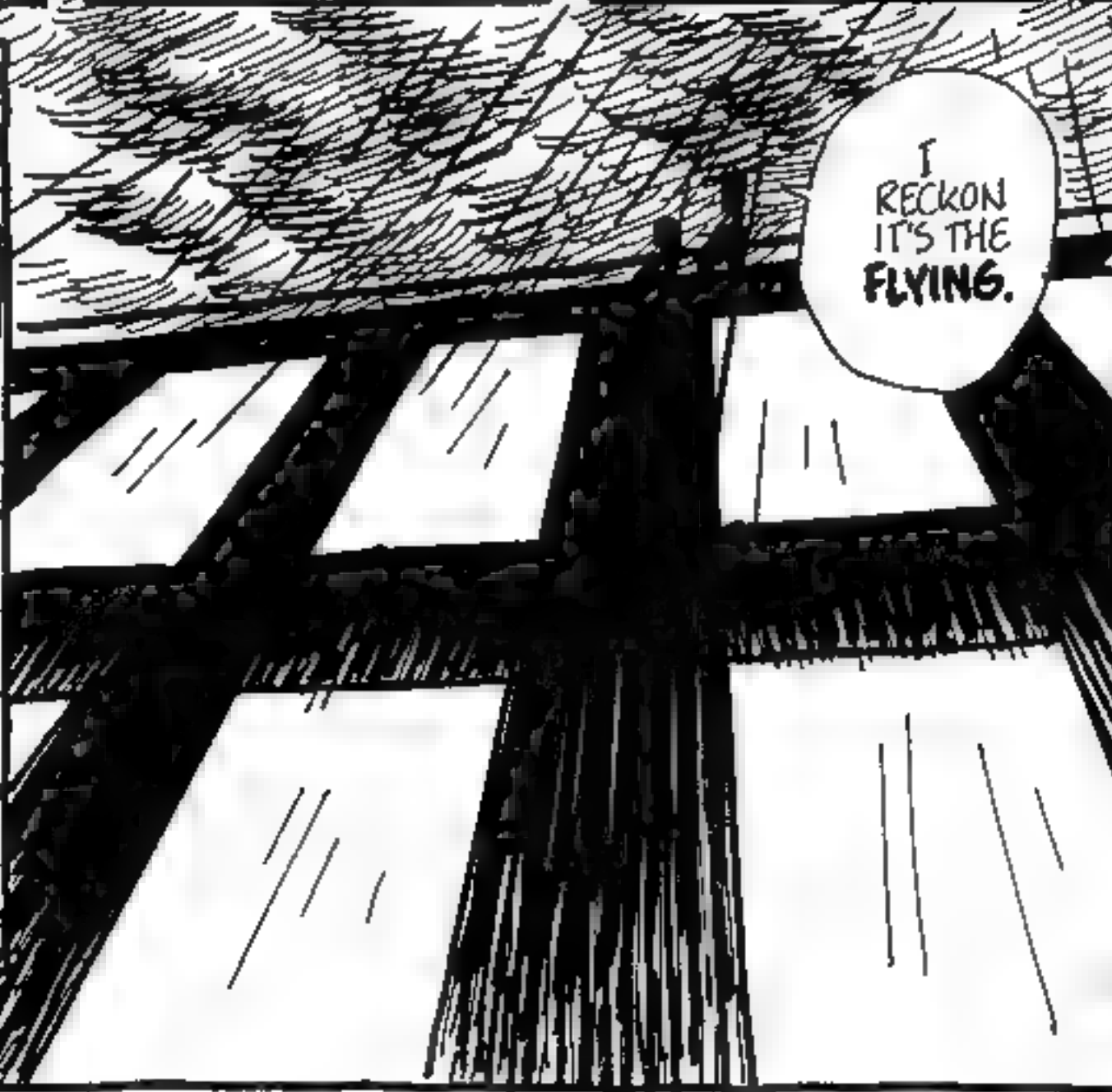
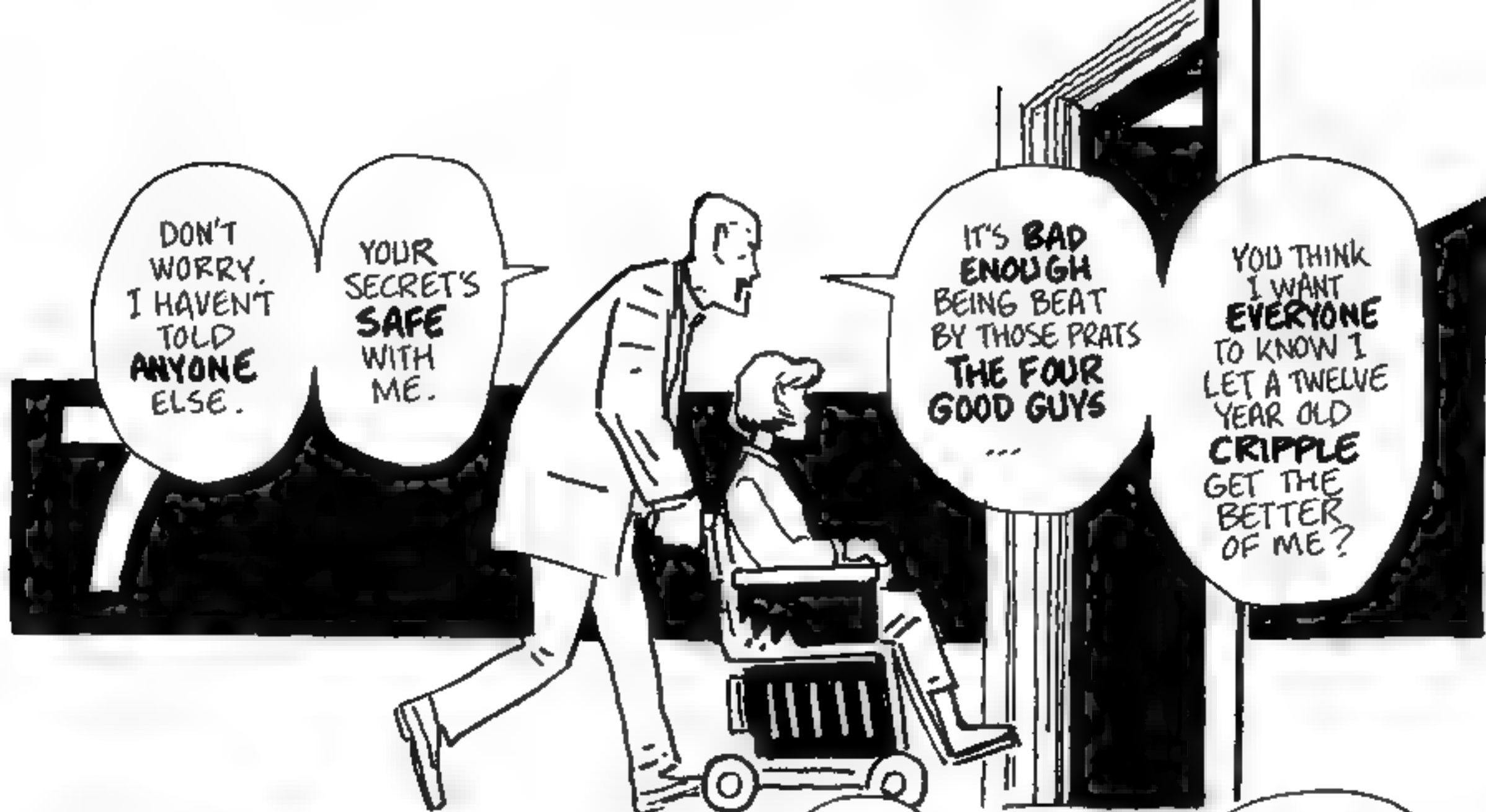
hmm?

THEN THE RAIN
STARTS TO FALL.
FAST AND HARD.

THE STORM'S
ARRIVED.









I AM
DOC TEMPEST
-- THE
WEATHER
WIZARD!

WITH A
SIMPLE WAVE
I CAN
CONJURE UP
THE HARSHTEST
CLIMATE
IMAGINABLE!

A TWIST-
HAILSTONES!
A NOD - AN
ARCTIC
BLIZZARD!

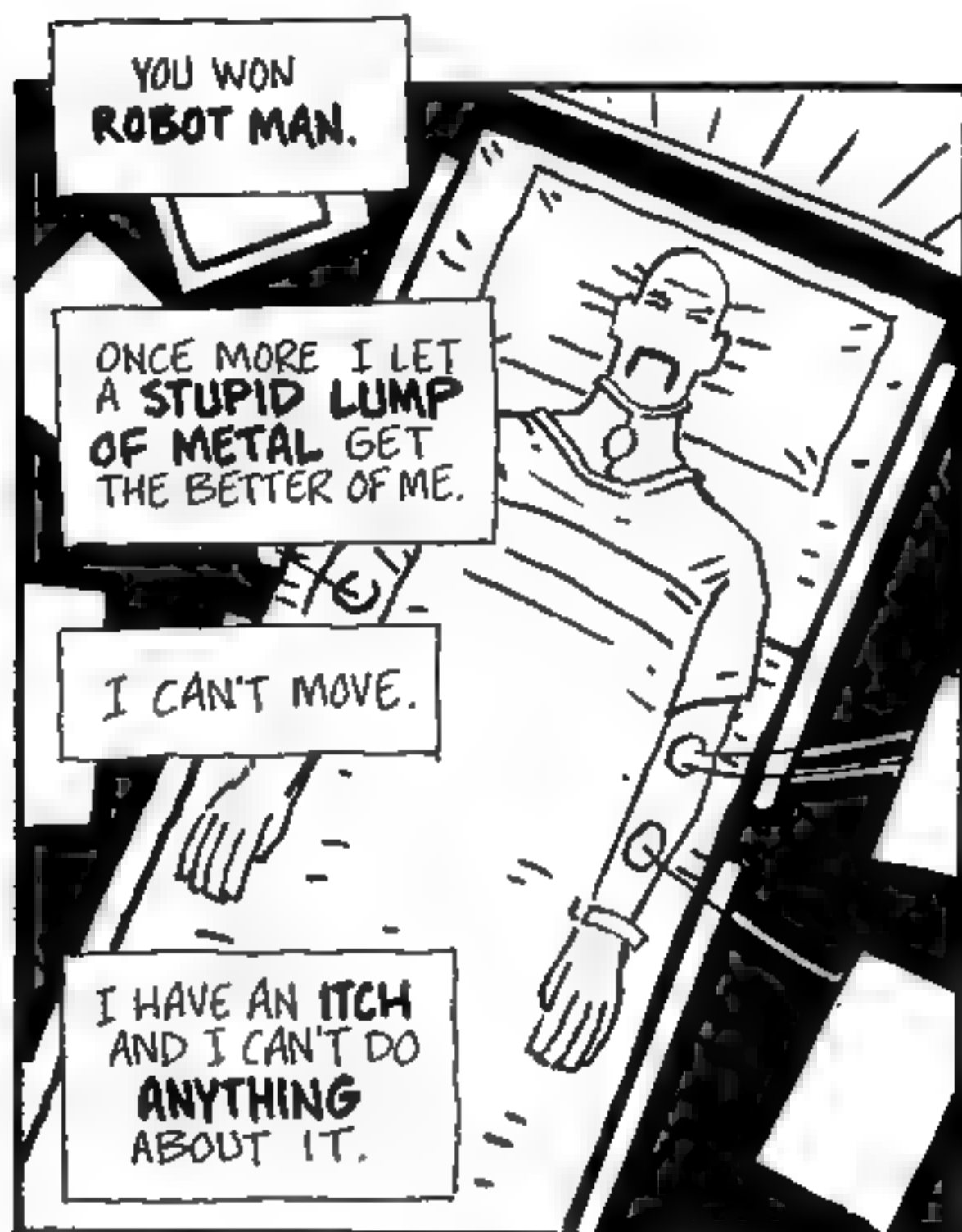
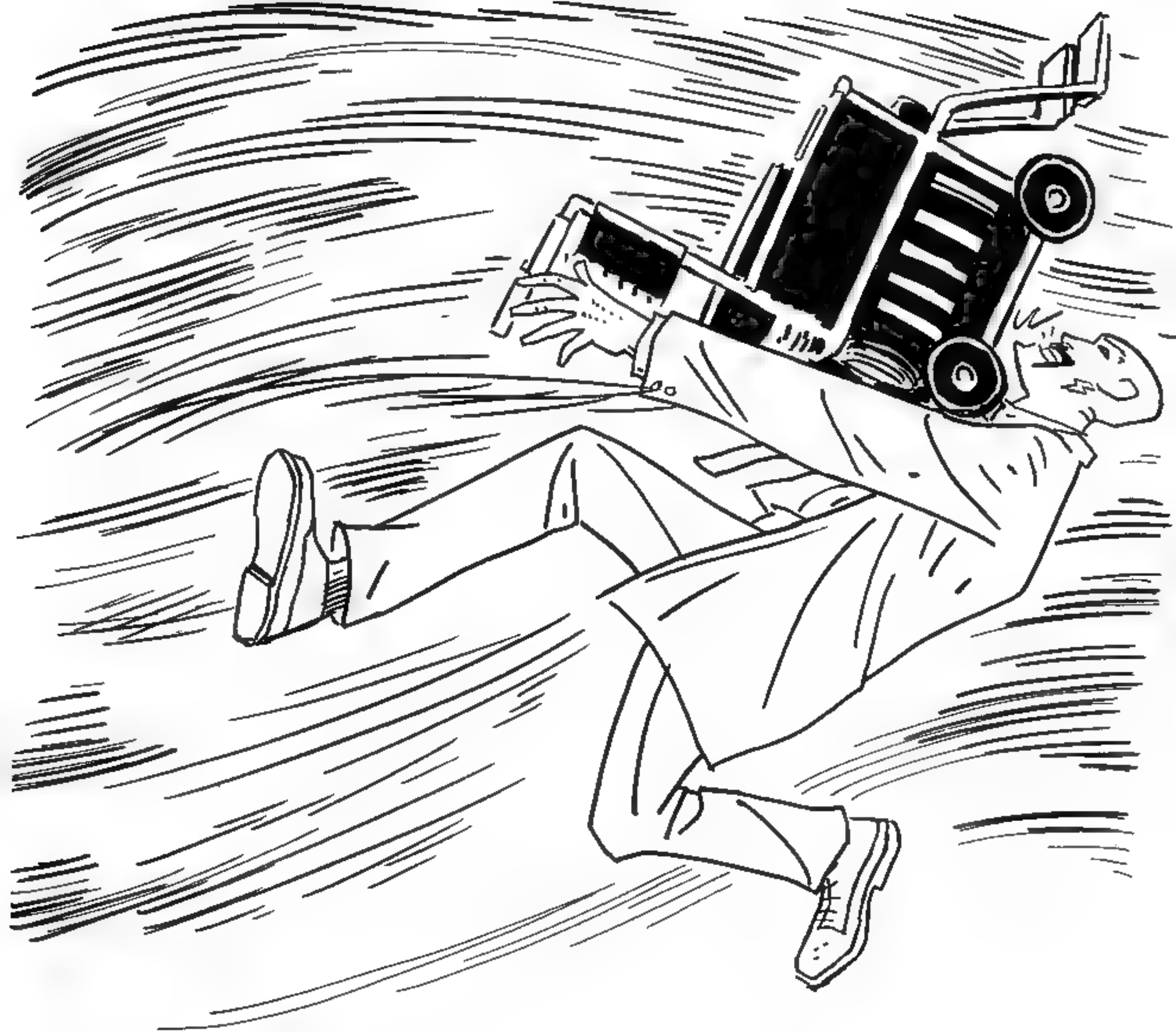
I CAN
SLAM YOUR
BODY WITH
WINDS OF
NINETY MILES
AN HOUR
JUST BY LIFTING
MY ARM!

I SHAPE
THE
WEATHER
WITH EVERY
MOVE
I MAKE!

YOU
CAN'T
ESCAPE!
I AM THE
HURRICANE!

I AM AN
ELEMENTAL
FORCE
PULLING
EVERYTHING
TOWARDS
ME!





YOU WON
ROBOT MAN.

ONCE MORE I LET
A **STUPID LUMP**
OF METAL GET
THE BETTER OF ME.

I CAN'T MOVE.

I HAVE AN ITCH
AND I CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT.

ALL I CAN DO IS
LIE HERE AND
THINK ABOUT YOU.

WANT TO KNOW
WHY I'M SMILING?

I CAN STILL MOVE
MY **TONGUE**.



OUTSIDE, A LIGHT
DRIZZLE STARTS
TO FALL.



THE
MORE THE
MIRROR
SHATTERS
THE MORE
REFLECTIONS
WE GET!





MY NAME IS
HARRY CRANE.

FOR **SEVEN YEARS**
I WORKED FOR Q
INVESTIGATING
QUESTION MARK
CRIMES.



LAST WEEK
HELEN MORGAN
WAS KILLED.

I'VE SEEN TOO MUCH.



I QUIT.

I NEED TO DO
SOMETHING
NORMAL.



SOMETHING
REAL.

I NEED TO MAKE
SENSE OF MY
LIFE AGAIN.





STAFF POST

DANCING ELEPHANT PRESS
P.O. BOX 2362, WELLS, BA5 1YQ, ENGLAND
e-mail: danceleph@aol.com

Wow! I just picked up The World's Press #3 at A1 Comics and really enjoyed this very entertaining comic book! Brian Peets, the owner of A1 Comics introduced me to your publication and I can see this really becoming a big hit. Not since Captain Britain and Captain America has the comic book world seen such patriot heroes like Jack Staff and Sgt. States. I love these guys. Kudos to Paul Grist for his superb drawing techniques and fast paced storylines! The Freedom Fighters are on the move and the comic book fans need to jump on this rollercoaster ride of spectacular excitement!

Sincerely yours,

Paul Dale Roberts, Production Captain
Jazma Universe Online!
<http://www.jazmaonline.com/>

You betcha!

Dear Paul,

I spotted a copy of Jack Staff 4 while I was in Forbidden Planet at lunchtime today and thought to myself 'That cover reminds me of that old Captain America story!' Lo and behold, after reading your editorial it seems I was right! I read those comics in the mid eighties as Marvel UK reprints and so managed to see the second part of the story - you hit the nail on the head, Cap does survive!

I think (although I might be imagining this) that the vampire failed to turn the good Captain into one of the living dead due to Cap's chain-mail neck protection - I'd forgotten that Captain America's suit was meant to have been made from chain-mail (must have been bloody heavy!)

Best wishes

John Innes
35 Emmanuel Road
LONDON SW12 0HH

Thanks to everyone who's taken the time to fill me in the Captain America story. I'm certainly sleeping a lot easier now!

H'lo Paul,

Well, the hunt continues. I've just managed to track down a copy of issue #4, but #3 remains elusive (but, thankfully, you've written the story in such a way that I'm able to fill in the blanks).

And speaking of blanks to be filled, you guessed just about right regarding that Captain America story. Baron Blood was masquerading as the doctor (whom he had killed years before), the cocky college kid did become the new Union Jack (although I don't know if that's still him under the hood), and the original Union Jack died at the end of the story of natural causes; a symbolic gesture, perhaps, of the end of his struggle against his brother, the vampire. My favorite bit? When Baron Blood sunk his teeth into Cap's neck...and almost broke them off! It turns out that's real chain mail Cap wears for a shirt!

Those Stern/Byrne CA stories are among some of my favorites. I believe that Marvel collected them as a trade paperback a few years ago, so you might want to snoop around for that.

Anyway, back to Jack...this was a most satisfying conclusion to this story arc. I certainly hope that we'll see more of Britain's Greatest Hero (not to mention the Freedom Fighters). And I can't decide which was more clever: Turning Becky into a vampire herself, or revealing that Tom-Tom is really a teenaged girl! Given such interesting characters, you could easily turn this into an ensemble book, focusing on various people.

Now, all we've got to do is solve this little distribution snafu over on this side of the sea....!

Best,

Gene Popa
Tora9

It's probably more of an ordering problem than a distribution one. I'm filling all the orders sent to me by Diamond so there's really no reason why a shop shouldn't be able to get copies of Kane or Jack Staff. I guess if a shop only orders one or two copies they sell very quickly - probably bypassing the comic rack altogether! Talk to your shop owner, show him a copy of the comic. It'll help him remember to order a few copies when he's working through Previews every month!

Dear Paul,

A few words on Jack Staff 1 to 4. If it wasn't for Dom Regan introducing me to your work on Kane years ago, I wouldn't have bothered

with Jack Staff. Working backwards from issue 4 was an interesting experience - something about the unannounced continuity jumps from the 40's to the present day alternating between Jack and Becky etc - but, I persevered, man, 'coz I realised I was reading something that's been crafted with care and intelligence. The fact that it's also a loving tribute to the magic of Silver Age Superhero comics doesn't hurt either.

You're right about Don Heck's contribution to the Essential Iron Man - out of all those volumes, it's the most enjoyable - a bit like the Marvel Masterworks Daredevil - a lesser known but much more rewarding little gem often overlooked compared to Lee/Kirby and Ditko stuff. The Iron Man Essentials is my fave so far.

The Dads Army cameos are superb, as are the Steptoe and Son characters! What next for Jack Staff issue 5? Are you going to explain how, who and why there's a Tom Tom the Robot Man in the 21st century, sixty years on? Why is the wonderful Becky Burdock wearing cullottes? Why is the dialogue and plot so good? How can't Mark Millar be this good on the Authority???

El Sloano
14 Annanhill Avenue
SCOTLAND KA1 2LB

Actually Tom Tom the Robot Man has only been around a couple of years (though I may be covering his wartime exploits in a future issue...)

ORIGINAL ART FOR SALE!

I'm still selling the original pages from Jack Staff. Single pages are available at £50 UK, \$85 US each. Colour pages and covers are not yet available. Please list alternatives in case your first choice has already gone (or contact me via e-mail if you want to check and/or reserve a page). As always, please make all cheques/postal orders payable to Paul Grist.

NEXT MONTH

Everyones favourite television superhero is back! And this time he's brought his friends with him! It's the return of the Legion of Substitute Megamen in Kane 31!

NEXT ISSUE

What do you do when your arch enemy turns to you for help? The Spider is back in Jack Staff 6

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IT TAKES TO
MAINTAIN
A **TRANS**
REALITY
LINK?

